

Botanical Resources Overview

- Identifying Species at Risk
- Plan Components
- Federally Listed Species
- Species of Conservation Concern
- Cultural Resources
- Other Resources



Identifying Species at Risk

(FSH 1909.12 Ch. 10)

Based on existing information, the responsible official must identify and document the set of at risk species and evaluate plan area ecological conditions for these species in the assessment. The set of at risk species for the planning purposes are:

- Federally recognized threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species (sec. 12.51).
- Potential species of conservation concern (SCC) (sec. 12.52).

Identifying Species at Risk

Identifying Federally Recognized Species

As part of the assessment and planning process, the responsible official must coordinate with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to identify the federally listed threatened and endangered species, species proposed for Federal listing, and candidate species that are relevant to the plan area and planning process.



Identifying Species at Risk

Identifying Potential Species of Conservation Concern (SCC)

The regional forester is responsible for identifying SCC for a plan area and for determining that the identification of each SCC is based upon the best available scientific information (36 CFR 219.9(c)).

The regional forester shall identify the species of conservation concern for the plan area in coordination with the responsible official (36 CFR 219.7(c)).

In the assessment for the plan development, the responsible official shall identify and evaluate existing information relevant to the plan area for potential SCC in the plan area (36 CFR 219.9).

Identifying Species at Risk

Selection of potential SCC is based upon an extensive screening process. Basically a species may be included on the potential SCC list if the best available scientific information indicates substantial concern about the species' capability to persist over the long-term in the plan area. This information may be derived from the scientific literature, species studies, habitat studies, analysis of information obtained from a local area, and/or the results of expert opinion or panel consensus.



Identifying Species at Risk

A species is not generally added to the SCC list if:

- The species is secure and its continued long-term persistence in the plan area is not at risk based on knowledge of its abundance, distribution, lack of threats to persistence, trends in habitat, and responses to management.
- There is insufficient scientific information available to conclude that there is a substantial concern about the species capability to persist in the plan area over the long term.
- Its occurrence is thought to be “accidental”, well outside its current range.

Identifying Species at Risk

- The list of potential SCCs identified in the assessment may be further modified during the planning process before approval of the plan.
- Document the rationale for identifying potential SCCs and the best available scientific information supporting the identification process in the planning record.



Identifying Species at Risk

At Risk Species

- Currently 33 species have been identified as At Risk Species.
- Federally listed or candidate: 4
- Species considered for SCC: 88
- Species tentatively selected: 29
- Assessment is ongoing, but it is not anticipated that the At Risk species list will change substantially.
- Under current management direction, we address 4 Federally listed species and 41 “Sensitive Species”.

Plan Components

Several species will not have plan components of their own, but will be included in general habitat components of other functional areas (grasslands, aquatics etc.)
Coordination is ongoing.

Components developed for:

- Federally Listed Species
- Species of Conservation Concern
- Cultural
- Other (needs assessment)



Federally Listed Species

- Four species identified
- Components generally included with other resource areas
- Some species-specific components
- Concurrence with regulatory agency required



Species of Conservation Concern

- 29 species identified
- Components generally included with other resource areas
- Some species-specific components
- Regulatory agency concurrence not required
- Species may be considered individually or grouped for component purposes.

Species Groups

- Mesic Forests
- Grasslands
- Transitional
- Meadows
- Rock Outcrops/Scree
- Riparian/Aquatic



Cultural Resources

- Treaty maintains Tribal use of several natural resources, including plants of cultural importance. (FSM 1563)
- As necessary FS collaborates with the Tribe on resource management issues that may affect plants of cultural importance.
- Direction provided in FSM 1563, FSM 2360 and FS-600.
- Two Camas restoration objectives identified.



Cultural Resources

Potential Restoration Opportunities

Musselshell Meadow



McComas Meadow



Other Resources

(placeholder)

- CFR 219.9 Diversity of Plant and Animal Communities
- Large information gap here
- Rare plant communities
- Restoration opportunities
- Assessment completion needed to guide potential components
- As with At Risk species, some potential components will need coordination with other resources

